

REMARKS

The Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough examination of the application. It is believed that no new matter is added to the application by this amendment.

Status Of The Claims

Claims 22-28 and 30-43 are pending in the application. Claims 22, 30 and 36 have been amended to clarify their language. Support for the amendments to claims 27 and 28 can be found in the specification at page 9, lines 9-12. Also, it is noted that the status of the claims set forth in lines 4 and 6 of the Office Action Summary does not accurately reflect the true status of the claims.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph

Claims 22-28 and 30-43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite. Applicants traverse.

At page 2, of the Office Action, the Examiner asserts that the preambles of claims 22 and 36 are not fully consistent with the bodies of the claims. However, the preambles of claims 22 and 36 have been amended to recite a “process for isolating and/or identifying.” Thus, for example, if the step (c) in claim 22 or 36 is not used, as conditioned by the “and either” option in the step (b), the body of the claim is still consistent with the preamble.

A page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner also asserts that claims 27 and 28 lack full antecedent support. However, claims 27 and 28 have been amended to have full antecedent support.

The claims are thus clear, definite and have full antecedent basis. This rejection is overcome and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

Drawings

The Examiner is respectfully requested to indicate whether the drawing figures are acceptable in next official action.

Foreign Priority

The Examiner has acknowledged foreign priority in the Office Action mailed October 6, 2004.

Information Disclosure Statements

The Examiner is thanked for considering the Information Disclosure Statements filed March 22, 2002, June 24, 2002 and August 19, 2002, and for making the initialed PTO-1449 forms of record in the application in the Office Action mailed October 6, 2004.

Prior Art

The prior art cited but not utilized by the Examiner indicates the status of the conventional art that the invention supersedes. Additional remarks are accordingly not necessary.

Conclusion

The Examiner's rejection has been overcome, obviated or rendered moot. No issues remain. The Examiner is accordingly respectfully requested to place the application in condition for allowance and to issue a Notice of Allowability.

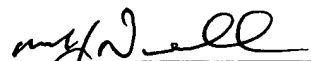
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Robert E. Goozner, Ph.D. (Reg. No. 42,593) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: June 8, 2006

REC

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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